



# 2023 Critical Language Scholarship Program

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Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

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# Campus Advisors Acknowledgement and Consent

The CLS Program works with faculty members and administrators at colleges and universities across the United States who assist students with the CLS application process. As part of the application process, we share your name, email address, and information about your degree program and the language for which you are applying with the designated advisor(s) at your school. The advisor(s) may reach out to you to offer assistance and encourage you to submit an application.

We also encourage you to reach out to CLS advisors on your campus proactively. You can search for CLS advisors on your campus on the CLS Program website (<https://clscholarship.org>). If you do not have a CLS advisor on your campus, or if you would like additional assistance, staff at your school's study abroad department, fellowships advising office, honors program, career advising office, and/or your academic advisor may be good resources. Your school may also have a writing center that would be happy to work with you on your application. Do a little research and you can make your application the best that it can be!

Please enter all the information requested below, and then press the "Save and Continue" button to proceed to the CLS application. You may change your answers to these questions at any time during the application period by editing them on the application form.

Your choice to continue indicates your consent to have this information shared as described. Please see our Privacy Policy for more information about how the CLS Program protects your information:

<https://clscholarship.org/privacy-policy>.

**I have reviewed the CLS website and identified an advisor and/or other resources on my campus who can assist me in understanding the CLS Program and preparing an effective application.**

- Yes
- No

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

# Section 1: Application Instructions

## How to Apply

- **Eligibility:** Check the eligibility requirements at [www.clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility](http://www.clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility).
- **Online Application:** Complete and submit the application form online, along with unofficial copies of your transcripts with grades from your current school and any previous universities attended within the last five years. Transcripts should be in text or PDF format and may **not** be digitally signed (official e-transcripts cannot be processed correctly). Applications are due November 15, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- **Technical Problems:** Any technical problems with the application form should be reported by email to [cls@americancouncils.org](mailto:cls@americancouncils.org).

Detailed instructions for the CLS Program Application: <https://clscholarship.org/assets/resources/2023-CLS-Program-Application-Instructions.pdf>.

**Do not wait until the due date to submit your application.** Submitting your application before the due date allows time to resolve any technical difficulties or last-minute questions.

The CLS Program strongly encourages you to submit your application well in advance of the application deadline. **The CLS Program and American Councils for International Education bear no responsibility for data transmission problems in submitting the application.**

## Paper Applications

**Only** if you are unable to submit any portion of your application materials online, you may submit them by mail. Those documents must be received at American Councils for International Education by November 15, 2022.

If you must submit a paper application, materials should be sent by certified post to American Councils at the following address:

ATTN: CLS Program  
American Councils for International Education  
1828 L St NW, Suite 1200  
Washington DC 20036-5136

## Questions?

For information about the CLS Program, please visit [www.clscholarship.org](http://www.clscholarship.org)

Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions page (<https://clscholarship.org/fags>) for more information on common questions that arise during the application process.

Contact CLS Program staff during normal business hours, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time, Monday-Friday, toll-free at: 1-877-257-9922

**Toll-free number:** 1-877-257-9922

**Email:** [cls@americancouncils.org](mailto:cls@americancouncils.org)

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

## Section 2: Program Overview and Requirements

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government. It is supported in its implementation by American Councils for International Education.

The CLS Program provides opportunities for American college and university students to study languages and cultures essential to America's engagement with the world. Through immersive study abroad, the CLS Program is designed to promote rapid language gains. CLS Program scholars develop essential intercultural fluency in regions that are critical to U.S. national security and economic prosperity.

Each summer, American undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at U.S. colleges and universities spend eight to ten weeks in intensive study abroad institutes in fourteen critical languages around the world.

The CLS Program reserves the right to change or cancel any or all program institutes based on safety, health, and security considerations, and other factors.

Depending on health and safety considerations, the U.S. Department of State may choose to hold some or all of the 2023 CLS institutes virtually. In completing this application, you will be considered for the 2023 CLS Program for your chosen target language based on the existing selection criteria, regardless of program format.

### Eligibility

#### To be eligible for the CLS Program applicants must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or national at the time of application.
  - Others, including Permanent Residents, are not eligible, even if they anticipate naturalization by the beginning of the program.
- Be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2023.
- Be enrolled in an accredited U.S. degree-granting program at the undergraduate (associate, bachelor's) or graduate (master's, doctoral, professional degree) level at the time of application.
  - Applicants must be enrolled in a program that results in a degree. Applicants who are taking stand-alone or continuing education classes are not eligible.
  - Applicants must be enrolled at an accredited U.S. institution. Students earning degrees at foreign institutions that are not based in the U.S. or its territories are not eligible, even if those institutions are accredited by a recognized U.S. accrediting agency.
  - Applicants in an undergraduate program (associate or bachelor's) must complete at least one full year of study (two semesters or three quarters) by the beginning of the CLS Program in Summer 2023.
  - Applicants must be enrolled at this institution in the fall term of 2022. There are limited exceptions to the enrollment requirement; please read the following information carefully:
    - If applicants are not taking classes at their home institution in the fall term, they should confirm that they are, in fact, enrolled. Institutions have different requirements to maintain enrollment status and applicants will be required to provide a signed letter from their **registrar** stating that you were enrolled during the fall term.
    - If applicants are taking a leave of absence to participate in an organized term- or year-long study abroad program, or to participate in a substantive internship program, they may request an exception to the enrollment requirement. Exceptions may only be granted in these two cases, and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

- **In either case, applicants must submit a signed letter from their home college or university in the U.S. explaining their situation and their intent to re-enroll following the completion of their study abroad or internship program. They must also submit documentation from the program provider explaining the opportunity and confirming their participation. This documentation may be submitted to American Councils by email at [cls@americancouncils.org](mailto:cls@americancouncils.org).**
  - Applicants must successfully complete academic requirements for the fall term in order to remain eligible for the CLS Program. Applicants who withdraw or fail to maintain a passing grade average are not eligible to participate in the program.
- Applicants must meet the language requirements of the program to which they apply.
- Applicants may only apply once, for one language, each year. Applicants who submit multiple applications will be considered ineligible.

### **The following persons are ineligible for the CLS Program:**

- Employees of the U.S. Department of State who work in offices under the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs, in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment;
- Employees of private and public agencies under contract or grant with the U.S. Department of State who perform services related to the Critical Language Scholarship Program, for a period ending one year following the termination of their services; or
- Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and dependent children) of the individuals described in the above paragraphs, for a period ending one year following the termination of such employment or service. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents.

These provisions do not extend to part-time or temporary employees, consultants, or interns of the U.S. Department of State (including at U.S. Embassies and Consulates), or to contract employees of the U.S. Department of State, unless such persons perform services related to the Critical Language Scholarship Program.

## **Participation Requirements**

The health and well-being of participants and staff are top priorities of CLS. The CLS Program is a rigorous immersion program and may be physically and emotionally challenging. Each student must be committed to working hard and participating fully in the group program, beginning with the mandatory pre-program orientation through the completion of the program.

With reasonable accommodations, participants in the CLS Program must:

- Be able to stay alert and to focus attention for up to several hours at a time during classes, while participating in cultural activities, and when receiving staff instructions;
- Attend the pre-program orientation and all daily classes and activities, as dictated by the program schedule and for the duration of the program (program dates will be announced prior to the deadline for accepting the award, if offered);
- If taking prescription medications, be able to maintain proper dosage without assistance from instructors or others (except in emergency situations);
- Perform necessary self-care, including maintaining adequate nutrition and hydration, dressing appropriately for environmental conditions, maintaining personal hygiene, and managing known medical conditions;

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

- Comprehend and follow detailed instructions on travel, risk management, personal care, hazard avoidance, and other topics;
- With reasonable accommodations, be able to navigate transportation independently between program-provided housing and the institute site, a maximum of approximately one hour each way;
- Work effectively as a member of a team despite potentially stressful and difficult conditions. This may require problem solving on an interpersonal or group level as well as a willingness to accept differences;
- Contribute to a safe learning environment. No inappropriate verbal or physical behavior toward others, either in person or online, is tolerated for any reason; and
- Effectively communicate ideas and concerns on an individual and group level.

Note that some program dates may overlap with the spring or fall academic term at participants' institutions. Therefore, it may be necessary for participants to work with their institution to accommodate the program dates.

## Medical Review

If selected for the CLS Program award, you will be required to submit a medical information form and physician's statement to the CLS Program for review by an independent medical professional. Results of the medical review will determine if you meet medical requirements necessary for program placement and participation in the CLS Program. You must also inform the program of any changes in your health status between submission of these forms and the start of the program in order to participate.

## Passports, Visas, and Entry Requirements

Participants in the CLS Program must enter the host country on a U.S. passport. In most cases it is not possible for individuals with dual citizenship to participate in the country of their other nationality due to host country laws or policies requiring citizens to enter the country using the passport issued by that country alone. In some cases, this may also apply to participants whose parents hold citizenship in the host country. Applicants are responsible for determining whether they have, or are eligible to have, dual citizenship with the host country, and to address any potential consequences before accepting a CLS award.

Where necessary, participants in the CLS Program must also receive an appropriate visa from the host country (deadlines vary by country) and must meet all local requirements to enter the country legally for the purposes of participating on the CLS Program.

- **The CLS Program, American Councils for International Education and the U.S. Department of State will assist finalists with their visa applications, but cannot influence a foreign government's decision of whether or not to issue a visa. The decision to issue a visa rests solely with the government and consular mission of the country to which an individual is traveling.**
- Finalists and, in some cases, alternates may be required to work closely with program staff on preparing their paperwork well in advance of regular deadlines in order to receive a visa.
- Failure to meet deadlines or respond in a timely manner to CLS Program staff requests may result in not being issued a visa and therefore not being able to participate in the program.
- Finalists may be required to submit their passports for visa processing in the spring, prior to the program start date. This may require finalists to cancel or reschedule planned international travel in order to participate in the CLS Program.
- Finalists must also meet all other local requirements for entry on the visa status required for participation in the program; requirements may include but are not limited to vaccination requirements or negative tests for infectious disease.

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## Military Affiliation

The CLS Program welcomes applicants with affiliation to the U.S. armed services. All applicants with military affiliation, including all U.S. Department of Defense military and civilian personnel, service academy cadets, service members of active and reserve components, as well as inactive service members, including members of the Individual Ready Reserves (IRR), may be subject to passport or visa requirements, special waiver requirements, prohibition of travel to the host country, and/or other restrictions. Prior to completing the CLS application, all applicants with affiliation to the U.S. armed forces should carefully review the CLS Program's instructions on this topic (<https://clscholarship.org/faqs>) and seek advice from the appropriate commanding officer.

## Additional Requirements

If you are selected for a CLS Program award, as a requirement of your participation, you must agree to the terms and conditions of the award. You may review a sample of the terms and conditions from a previous year. The award terms and conditions are revised on an annual basis and may change before the start of the program.

## Terms and Conditions of Award

[https://clscholarship.org/assets/resources/2022-CLS-Terms-and-Conditions\\_Travel.pdf](https://clscholarship.org/assets/resources/2022-CLS-Terms-and-Conditions_Travel.pdf)

## Privacy Policy and Use of Personal Data

Your privacy is important to us. American Councils for International Education (American Councils) follows a few fundamental principles with regards to your data.

- We are thoughtful about the personal information we ask you to provide and the personal information that we collect about you.
- We store personal information for only as long as we have a reason to keep it.
- We aim for transparency on how we gather, use, and share your personal information.

By starting an application to the CLS Program, you agree to our privacy policy, which incorporates and clarifies these principles. You can review our full privacy policy at <https://clscholarship.org/privacy-policy>.

## Program Benefits

### Participants in the CLS Program will receive:

- Language Instruction and cultural programming;
- Textbooks and language learning materials;
- Language gains certified using the widely recognized ACTFL OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) assessment;
- Non-competitive eligibility for U.S. government employment for up to three years after program completion;
- Academic credit issued through Bryn Mawr College;
- International and domestic travel between the student's home city in the U.S. and the CLS Program site abroad;
- Visa application fees, where applicable; and
- Room, board, and program-sponsored travel within the host country or location.



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### The following expenses will *not* be covered:

- U.S. passport fees;
- The cost of medical exams and any follow-up visits necessary to pass the medical review process, as determined by the CLS Program; or
- COVID-19 testing expenses incurred because of non-vaccination for entry requirements.

## Selection Process

Applicants for the CLS Program will be selected on the basis of merit, with consideration for the following:

- Commitment to language learning;
- Connection between language and goals;
- Preparation for the CLS Program;
- Adaptability, Sensitivity, and Resilience; and
- Contribution to the CLS Program and program goals.

All applicants will be contacted in **late January** by email with a notification of whether their application passed the initial review process.

**Finalists, alternates, and non-recipients** will be notified of their statuses by email in **early March**.

Those selected for the award will have approximately two weeks to accept or decline. Alternates are promoted on a rolling basis throughout the spring.

Finalists and alternates will receive further information on program requirements, including the medical review and visa process, at this time.

Read the full selection criteria at <https://clscholarship.org/applicants/selection>.

## Section 3: Eligibility

Please refer to the Eligibility Requirements listed in Section 2:

### 1) I am a U.S. citizen or national (including naturalized U.S. citizen).

- Yes  
 No

### 2) I will be at least 18 years old by May 15, 2023.

- Yes  
 No

### 3) I am currently enrolled in a degree-granting program.

- Yes  
 No

#### 3a) If no, please explain

*Maximum of 100 words allowed.*

### 4) Are you currently taking a leave of absence?

- Yes  
 No

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

**4a) If yes, please explain below. Students on a leave of absence during the fall semester are only eligible if they are participating in an organized semester- or year-long study abroad program or a substantive internship program and intend to re-enroll following its completion.**

*Note that you will be required to submit documentation of your study abroad or internship program and a signed letter from your home college or university in the U.S. explaining your situation and your intention to re-enroll following the completion of your program. This documentation should be submitted to American Councils at [cls@americancouncils.org](mailto:cls@americancouncils.org) no later than November 18, 2022.*

*Maximum of 100 words allowed.*

**5) My institution is an accredited institution based in the United States. (Note: Students earning degrees at foreign colleges or universities that are not based in the United States or its territories are not eligible.)**

- Yes
- No

**6) By the program start date (summer 2023), I will have completed at least one academic year of study at the undergraduate level (two semesters or three quarters).**

- Yes
- No

**7) I am submitting only one CLS Program application for only one language.**

- Yes

**8) I certify that I have reviewed the eligibility requirements, and that I am eligible to apply for the CLS Program.**

*A full description of the eligibility requirements is available at <https://clscholarship.org/applicants/eligibility>*

- Yes

**9) Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?**

*All other factors being equal, the CLS Program gives preference to veterans of the armed forces. Active duty members of the military do not qualify for a veteran's preference. If you respond yes to this question, you will be required to attach a copy of your DD214 or NGB-22 Form as proof of your veteran status.*

- Yes
- No
- Decline to State

**9a) If yes, attach a copy of your DD214 or NGB-22 Form as proof of your veteran status.**

**10) I understand that if I am selected for the CLS Program award, I will be required to submit a medical information form and physician's statement for review by an independent medical professional. Results of the medical review will determine if I meet medical requirements necessary for program placement and participation in the CLS Program.**

*The CLS Program does not discriminate on the basis of medical condition or disability.*

- Yes

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

**11) I understand that if I am selected for a CLS Program award, my participation depends on the decision by the host country to issue me a visa that is appropriate and valid for the CLS Program. The decision to issue a visa is made at the sole discretion of the host country and neither American Councils nor the U.S. Department of State has control over visa decisions by host countries.**

Yes

## Section 4: Language Choice

The CLS Program provides instruction in fourteen critical languages through summer study abroad institutes.

Language	Beginner (No Prior Language Study Required)	Advanced Beginner (Requires One Year of Prior Study)	Intermediate and Advanced (Requires Two Years of Prior Study)
Arabic		✓	✓
Azerbaijani	✓	✓	✓
Bangla	✓	✓	✓
Chinese			✓
Hindi	✓	✓	✓
Indonesian	✓	✓	✓
Japanese			✓
Korean		✓	✓
Persian	✓	✓	✓
Portuguese	✓	✓	✓
Russian		✓	✓
Swahili	✓	✓	✓
Turkish	✓	✓	✓
Urdu	✓	✓	✓

### 1) Indicate the Language and Level for which you are applying.

You should select the level you expect to be when the program starts in June 2023. Assess yourself according to the Language Levels and Prerequisites guidelines at <https://clscholarship.org/applicants/language-levels>.

### 2) How many years of formal target language classroom study (or equivalent) will you have completed by summer 2023?

2a) Years in high school

2b) Years in college or university

## Section 5: Biographical Information

**1) Applicant Name (please provide your preferred name that you would like to be called)**

**2) Is your legal name different from your preferred name?**

- Yes
- No

**2a) Legal name (if different, the name on your government-issued ID)**

**3) Have you had a different legal name before?**

- Yes
- No

**2a) Previous legal name used**

**4) Gender**

*Please select the option that best describes your gender. This information will not be shared with application evaluators.*

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- I do not wish to respond

**5) Date of Birth**

**6) Place of Birth**

**Birth City:**

**Birth State/Province/Region:**

**Birth Country:**

**7) Do you hold dual citizenship with another country?**

- Yes
- No

**6a) If yes, please indicate other citizenship country.**

**8) Are you a naturalized U.S. citizen?**

*Naturalized citizens are eligible for the CLS Program, but must be naturalized by the date of the application deadline, November 15, 2022. For more information about naturalization, please visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website (<https://www.uscis.gov/>).*

- Yes
- No

**8a) If yes, please provide date of naturalization.**

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

## Permanent Address and Congressional District

Please enter your permanent residential address, at which you are eligible to register to vote. The CLS Program reports to members of Congress when constituents from their states or districts receive a CLS award. Your address should fall within the congressional district you indicate.

### 9) Permanent Residential Address

*For example, if you live in Rhode Island but attend school in Illinois, then please indicate your address in Rhode Island.*

**Street Address:**

**City:**

**Province/State/Governorate:**

**Country:**

**Postal/ZIP Code:**

### 10) U.S. Congressional District

To find your congressional district, please visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

**10a) State/Territory**

**10b) District**

*Indicate the district number for your Congressional district.*

*Enter "At Large" for states with only one Congressional representative (Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming), and for the District of Columbia and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands)*

## Current Contact Information

If you are selected to participate in the program, we will contact you using the information that you enter here, so please provide contact information that you will be available at through the summer of 2023. If you are selected, you will have an opportunity to update your contact information at that time.

### 11) Primary Telephone Number

*Will be used for duration of program, through October 2023.*

### 12) Would you like to receive automated status updates and reminders about your application via text message?

*The primary telephone number listed above may be used to contact you. Standard texting rates apply. You may stop text alerts at any point.*

Yes

### 13) Alternate Telephone Number

*We will only contact you at this number if we are unable to reach you and there is important or time-sensitive information to share. We **strongly recommend** you enter an alternate number or the number of a close friend or family member.*

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

#### 14) Primary Email Address

This email address will be used to inform you of your selection status in January and March, 2023. We recommend **not** using your university address, because it might expire when you graduate.

#### 15) Alternate Email Address

Such as your university address.

## Passport Information

#### 16) Do you have a U.S. passport with your legal name valid through December 2023 with two blank visa pages? Note that if you are a CLS Russian applicant, your passport must be valid through March 2024

You do **not** need to have a passport to apply for the CLS Program. However, all finalists are required to have a valid passport by March 2023 in order to participate in the program.

You may need to apply for a new passport if:

- You do not currently have a valid U.S. passport;
- Your passport is not valid through the above dates; or
- Your passport does not have two blank visa/stamp pages. (Note that it is no longer possible to add new pages to U.S. passports. You must apply for a new passport.)

If you do not take measures to secure a valid passport by March 2023, you will be responsible for any fees associated with expediting your passport.

Note that the United States is experiencing long wait times for new passport applications and passport renewals. Routine passport service can take up to 18 weeks from the day an application is submitted to the day a new passport is received. For this reason, you are encouraged to apply for a passport or passport renewal as soon as possible.

For more information on securing a passport, please visit <http://www.travel.state.gov/>.

Yes

No

#### 16a) Date of Issue

#### 16b) Date of Expiration

## Section 6: Current Academic Information

### 1) Current College or University Name

1a) Department, campus or school division, if applicable

### 2) University City and State

### 3) Start Date

### 4) Anticipated Date of Graduation (if applicable)

### 5) Type of Degree

- Undergraduate (Bachelor's or Associate's)
- Master's
- Doctoral (PhD)
- Professional Degree (DDS, MD, DO, PAC, JD, etc.)

### 6) What is the name of your current degree program?

*For example, "Associate of General Studies," "BA in East Asian Studies," "Master of Public Health," or "Doctor of Philosophy in Education," or "Doctor of Dental Surgery."*

### 7) Current or Anticipated Academic Major(s)

### 8) Are you a first term student in your degree program?

- Yes
- No

### 9) Type of term

- Quarters
- Semesters
- Other

9a) If other, please explain

9b) Number of Terms Completed at Time of Application

9c) What is Your GPA on the 4-Point Scale?



Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

## Spring 2023

**10) Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the Spring 2023 academic term?**

- Yes
- No

**10a) When is the anticipated date of your last final exam?**

**11) Will you be studying abroad during the Spring 2023 academic term?**

- Yes
- No

**11a) If so, where?**

**(i) City**

**(ii) Country**

**12) Anticipated Spring 2023 Courses**

*Please list all courses you anticipate taking between January and June 2023*

## Fall 2022

**13) Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the fall 2023 academic term?**

- Yes
- No

**12a) If yes, when is the anticipated date of your first day of class for fall 2023?**

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

## Section 7: Transcript and Grades

Please provide a list of the courses you have taken and the grades you have received at your current college or university.

**Please note** that anyone who is accepted to the CLS Program will be required to submit an official transcript at a later date to verify the information provided below. Significant discrepancies between the information provided in your CLS application and your official transcript will result in the revocation of the CLS award unless the institution verifies that a change (e.g., grade change, course removed, etc.) was made on your official record. Please contact us with any questions regarding the transcript reporting requirements.

## Section 8: Previous Academic Information

1) Have you attended a college/university previous to your current school?

Yes

No

2) Please list all previous colleges and universities you attended. Include the following information:

**a) Country**

*Please first tell us the country your institution was located in (including the United States)*

**b) College or University Name**

**c) Type of Program**

Undergraduate (Bachelor's or Associate's)

Master's

Doctoral (PhD)

Professional Degree (DDS, MD, DO, PAC, JD, etc.)

Non-Degree

**c(i) Degree Awarded**

*e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, or Doctor of Education*

**c(ii) Date Degree Awarded**

**d) Field of Study**

**e) Start Date**

**f) End Date**

**g) Did you have a GPA for this study program?**

Yes

No

**g(i) If yes, what was Your GPA on the 4-Point Scale?**

**g(ii) If no, please explain**

*Maximum of 100 words allowed.*

**h) Attach Transcript**

## Section 9: Language Study and Travel

### 1) Which statement best describes your CLS target language study?

- I have taken classes in my CLS target language
- I have studied or have other experience in my CLS target language, but have not taken formal classes
- I have never taken classes in my CLS target language and am applying at the **beginning level**.

## Previous Target Language Courses

### 1a) Have you taken any courses in your target language previously?

- Yes
- No

### 1b) Please list any previous courses taken in the target language starting with the most recent. Include the following information:

- Course Title
- Institution
- Start Date
- End Date
- Grade
- Average number of hours per week spent in classroom

## Current Target Language Course

### 1c) Are you currently enrolled for the Fall 2022 semester in a primary language course in your CLS target language? This would include courses in literature or other content courses if the class is taught in the target language, including all readings and written assignments.

- Yes
- No

#### 1c(i) Course Title

#### 1c(ii) Institution

*If self-study or led by a tutor, please indicate that here.*

#### 1c(iii) Start Date

#### 1c(iv) End Date

#### 1c(v) Average number of hours per week spent in classroom

## Planned Target Language Course

**1d) Do you plan to enroll in a language course in the target language for the Winter/Spring 2023 term?**

- Yes
- No

**1d(i) Course Title**

**1d(ii) Institution**

**1d(iii) Start Date**

**1d(iv) End Date**

## Target Language Experience

**2) What have you already done, and what will you do prior to participation in the CLS Program, to learn the target language?**

*Check all that apply*

- Interactions with friends or family members who speak the target language
- Personal history with the language or related dialect
- Private or small group study or tutoring in the target language
- Independent study or personal research efforts
- Other efforts or activities to gain linguistic and cultural knowledge in the target language
- Formal classes in college/university
- Formal classes in high school/elementary school
- Study abroad program
- I am a heritage speaker (family background in the language, practicing the language at home)
- Other (explain below)

**2a) If "other", please explain**

*Maximum of 50 words allowed.*

**3) Please describe the activities you have undertaken including the frequency and number of hours, content, books or materials used, chapters or topics covered and level of engagement. If you are a heritage speaker, please indicate the degree of your language use at home.**

*Maximum of 150 words allowed.*

## Target Language Travel

**4) Please provide information on any travel you have taken to countries where the target language is spoken. Include the following information:**

- Country
- Year of Visit
- Sponsoring Organization (if any)
- Travel Duration
- Travel Purpose

## International Travel

**5) Please list all significant international travel opportunities you have participated in previously for the purposes of work or study, including the country name, reason for travel, and the approximate dates and length of your visit.**

## Other Language Study

**6) Have you studied or do you speak languages other than English or your target language?**

Yes

No

**6a) List the other language(s) you speak or have studied. Include the following information:**

- Language
- Primary Study Method
- Number of Years Spoken/Studied

# Section 10: Previous Programs, Activities, Honors, and Fellowships

## CLS Program Awards

### 1) Have you applied for the CLS Program in the past?

- Yes
- No

#### 1a) If yes, have you received a CLS Program award in the past?

- I received a CLS award and completed the program
- I received a CLS award, but did not attend the program
- I received a CLS award but declined
- I received a CLS award but did not successfully complete the program
- No, I have not previously received a CLS award

#### 1a(i) If you have received a previous CLS award, are you applying for the same language as the CLS Program you completed previously?

- Yes, I am applying for the same language as a CLS Program I completed previously
- No, I am applying for a different language from the CLS Program I completed previously

**1a(i-i) If no, please explain how you are maintaining your language skills in the language for which you first received a CLS Award. Please address how learning an additional language will contribute to your academic and professional goals. Please comment on how you plan to use knowledge of both of these languages in your professional future.**

*Maximum of 150 words allowed.*

**1a(i) If did not attend or declined, please provide a short description of the reason that you declined the previous offer to participate in CLS. Please describe the difference that would allow you to participate in the program if awarded a CLS this year.**

*Minimum of 150 words required.*

**1a(i) If did not successfully complete, please provide a short description explaining why you had to withdraw or were asked to leave the CLS Program.**

*Maximum of 150 words allowed.*

**1a(i) If you completed the program previously, please explain why the CLS Program is the best way for you to continue your language study. Please comment on why your additional participation in CLS would be a good investment for the U.S. government.**

*Maximum of 150 words allowed.*

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

**1b) Please indicate all CLS Programs attended from 2006-2022. Include the following information:**

- Year
- Language
- Level
- City

## U.S. Government Programs

**2) Which of the following U.S. Government programs have you participated in?**

Check all that apply

- Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship (Gilman)
- Boren Award (Fellowship or Scholarship)
- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)
- Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program (English Teaching Assistantship)
- Fulbright U.S. Student Program (Study/Research)
- Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad
- Language Flagship Program
- National Security Languages Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)
- STARTALK
- Title VIII Award (Research and Training on Eastern Europe and Eurasia)

**2a) If you checked any boxes above, please indicate the program, year and country for each. Include the following information:**

- Program Name
- Program Location, including city, state/region, and country
- Language studied (if applicable)
- Year

**2b) If you received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program (Study/Research) Award, were you also the recipient of a Critical Language Enhancement Award (CLEA)?**

- Yes
- No

## Honors and Fellowships

**3) List up to three other fellowships or academic honors that you have received.**

## Activities and Employment

**4) List up to five jobs, internships, and/or volunteer or campus activities that you have engaged in that demonstrate leadership capacity, community involvement or a connection to your professional goals. Include the following information:**

- Activity Name



Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

- Start Date
- End Date

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

## Section 11: Short Essays

Before you begin your essays, it is strongly recommended that you read the information on the CLS website pertaining to your language and watch the video providing guidance for writing effective application essays for the CLS Program: [www.clscholarship.org/apply](http://www.clscholarship.org/apply).

If you have previously participated in the CLS Program, you may not reuse the same essay responses from your previous application(s). If you applied previously but were not selected, you may reuse material from your previous application(s) if you wish.

### 1) Resilience and Preparation for the CLS Program

*Maximum of 300 words allowed.*

Studying abroad requires flexibility, tolerance, openness, and adaptability. During the CLS Program, you will be building relationships with people from the host country and functioning day-to-day in another language and in a new culture and environment alongside a diverse cohort of American students with different identities, backgrounds, and experiences. You will be exposed to new beliefs, values, attitudes, and opinions in the host culture and within your cohort. For example, you might find that there are differences in concepts of privacy; socially acceptable behaviors; the role of the individual in society; and/or values and political viewpoints.

- What aspects of living in a host community and participating in the CLS Program do you expect will be the most challenging for you?
- What knowledge, skills, and experiences will you draw on to meet these challenges?
- Give an example of a situation that required you to use strategies for interacting with people who are different from you or a situation that was unfamiliar?

### 2) Citizen Diplomacy

*Maximum of 300 words allowed.*

A key goal of the CLS Program is to increase the number and diversity of Americans who study and speak critical languages in order to develop mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Languages offer an opportunity for communication and exchange, providing the foundation of a more peaceful world. CLS Program scholars bear responsibility for representing the United States as citizen diplomats in their host communities; they reflect a diversity of values, beliefs, and opinions that is fundamental to providing a balanced representation of the United States abroad (see the diversity statement of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at <https://eca.state.gov/files/bureau/deia-statement-portrait-accessible.pdf>).

CLS Program scholars are expected to contribute to the goal of building mutual understanding by sharing what it means to be an American, learning about the host culture, and building meaningful relationships. After the program, alumni share their overseas experiences with others in the United States.

- Consider how your unique experience and perspective might contribute to your cohort.
- Make a case for how you will serve as an effective citizen diplomat abroad. How could you contribute to the mission of building mutual understanding between the people of your home community and the people of your host community?

### 3) Commitment to Language Study

*Maximum of 200 words allowed.*

The CLS Program seeks to support students who are committed to acquiring a high level of linguistic and cultural knowledge about the regions and countries in which they study.

**Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>**

- What interests you about your chosen target language and the people who speak it?
- How will you continue to study this language after the CLS Program?

## Section 12: Statement of Purpose

### 1) Statement of Purpose

*Maximum of 500 words allowed.*

Please address the following questions in your statement of purpose:

- How will increased language and cultural knowledge help you achieve your future academic or professional goals?
- Why is participation in the CLS Program appropriate for you at this point in your academic or professional career?
- Why should the CLS Program invest in you? What is it that you bring to the program?

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

## Section 13: Statistical Information

This information will **not** be shared with application reviewers and will have no bearing on your selection for the CLS Program. It may be used in aggregate for the production of external reports or public presentations.

The U.S. Department of State and American Councils welcome all eligible applications and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**The information you provide below will not affect your eligibility for the award, or have an impact on the evaluation or selection process.**

### 1) How did you learn about the program?

*Check all that apply*

- CLS Alumni or Participants
- Email Announcement
- Magazine
- Newspaper
- Poster
- School Presentation
- Social Media
- Study Abroad Fair
- University Staff
- Website or Internet Search
- Word of Mouth
- Other

#### 1a) If you checked University Staff above:

*Check all that apply*

- Academic Advisor
- Campus Organization
- Diversity/Inclusion Office
- Fellowship Advisor
- Study Abroad Advisor
- Teacher/Professor
- Career Counselor

#### 1b) If you checked Other above, please specify:

*Maximum of 250 characters allowed.*

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

## 2) What is your race or ethnicity?

Select all that apply. **Note:** Categories adhere to Office of Management and Budget's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting, which also guide the U.S. Census.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- White
- Some Other Race

### 2a) If Some Other Race, please explain:

*Maximum of 20 words allowed.*

## 4) Are you a first generation college student?

Answer "No" if one of your parents or grandparents graduated from a four-year college

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

## 5) Are you a Pell Grant recipient?

*Note: Federal Pell Grants are generally awarded only to undergraduate students. If you are a graduate student, please indicate whether you received a Pell Grant as an undergraduate.*

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

## 6) Are you a veteran, or active or reserve duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces?

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

## 7) Do you have a disability?

- Yes
- No
- I decline to state

### 6a) If yes, please explain:

*Maximum of 50 words allowed.*

Please submit your application using the online application system at <https://clscholarship.org/apply>

**8) Where did you graduate from high school, if applicable?**

**City:**

**Province/State/Governorate:**

**Country:**

**9) Select the location that best describes where you grew up.**

- Major City
- Other City or Town
- Rural Area

## Section 14: Review and Submit

### Final Review of Application

Before you submit your application, please be sure to review all sections. Make sure you have answered all the questions, attached all the required documents, and that you are satisfied with your responses.

Once you submit your application, you will no longer be able to make changes to any section of the application. Please note that due to the large volume of applications received, the CLS Program is unable to provide feedback on individual applications.

### Certification

#### 1) Please sign your name below to indicate your agreement with this statement:

I certify:

- I completed this application and the written portions are my own work;
- Everything in this application is complete and true to the best of my knowledge;
- I understand that limited information from my application may be shared with representatives of my university, for example study abroad or fellowships advising offices, including my name, degree information and choice of language;
- I understand that American Councils and the U.S. Department of State will not discuss individual selection decisions with applicants; and
- I understand that my application is in no way an offer or a guarantee of an offer for a Critical Language Scholarship award.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

### Additional Information

#### 2) Would you like us to contact you with information about CLS and other U.S. Study Abroad programs in the future?

*You may unsubscribe from emails at any point in the future.*

Yes! Please add me to your mailing list.